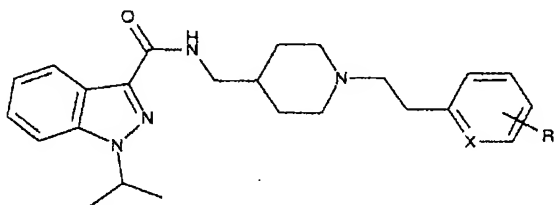


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of a~~ A method for treating neuropathic pain comprising administering to a subject having neuropathic pain the compound of
formula I:



(I)

wherein X is CH or N, and

when X is CH, R is H, OH, a linear or branched alkyl chain having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, a linear or branched alkoxy chain having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or a halogen atom, and

when X is N, R is H[.,,];

or an acid addition salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acid, to prepare a pharmaceutical composition active in the treatment of neuropathic pain.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of a~~ The method of claim 1, compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein X is [[CH]] N and R is H in the compound of formula (I).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of a compound of formula (I) according to~~ The method of claim 1, wherein X is [[N]] CH and R is H in the compound of formula (I).

Claim 4 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein X is CH and R is OH in the compound of formula (I).

Claim 5 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein X is CH and R is halogen in the compound of formula (I).

Claim 6 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein X is CH and R is a linear or branched alkyl chain having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms in the compound of formula (I).

Claim 7 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein X is CH and R is a linear or branched alkoxy chain having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms in the compound of formula (I).

Claim 8 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human.

Claim 9 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human and has neuropathic pain resulting from diabetes.

Claim 10 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human and has neuropathic pain resulting from immunodeficiency.

Claim 11 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human and has neuropathic pain resulting from trauma.

Claim 12 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human and has neuropathic pain resulting from ischaemia.

Claim 13 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human and has neuropathic pain resulting from multiple sclerosis.

Claim 14 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human and has neuropathic pain resulting from sciatic neuralgia.

Claim 15 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human and has neuropathic pain resulting from trigeminal neuralgia.

Claim 16 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human and has neuropathic pain resulting from a post-herpetic syndrome.